

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A device for laser drilling and laser erosion comprising: a laser for generating a laser beam acting upon a point of action on a workpiece;

[[and]]

a device for generating an electric field in an area of the point of action, wherein the device for generating the electric field includes an electrode and a current-voltage source, the electrode being situated at a distance from the point of action, the current-voltage source being interconnected between an electrically conductive workpiece and the electrode in such a way that the electric field is applied between the workpiece and the electrode, and wherein the workpiece and the electrode are interconnected in such a way that the workpiece is positively charged and the electrode is negatively charged.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 910, wherein the current-voltage source is a direct current-voltage source.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein a magnetic field is applied in an area of the point of action on the workpiece.

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 910, further comprising an electric measuring device for measuring a current flowing between the workpiece and the electrode.

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 910, wherein the current-voltage source generates a high-frequency alternating voltage, and further comprising a measuring device for measuring a capacitive resistance between the workpiece and the electrode.

16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 910, wherein the electrode has a one-piece design and has at least one opening through which the laser beam passes without obstruction.